

From: Erik Fjerstad
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/5/01 8:42pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

I am a computer literate individual who has utilized computers and software for 30 years, from the era of punch-card to laptops, to pc-phones. I continue to be amazed at all the excellent products that arise and then get bullied into sale or oblivion by Microsoft. Microsoft has always been a follower, a stifler, a "not-invented-here" enveloper (not developer) of products. I utilize and like many microsoft products, but many others as well, and consistently find the "bent" within microsoft products to exclude competition, either subtly or overtly.

I am incredulous at the appeasement made by the DOJ on the lawsuit. Please re-consider.... the situation is moving in the direction of loss of choice and continued worsening of product. It is akin to having one's choice of cars limited to what Chevrolet has to offer, or to years ago with ATT, where they were the only phone service and equipment provider in town. To develop competition, to foster world-wide growth, and to enable opportunities for the industry world-wide, choice is needed. This requires openness in standards and arms-length relationships between applications and operating systems. A clear example is the VHS tape, we can have "standardization" that supports growth without having to buy the player only from Sony (Beta). How many more blatant examples are needed (attempts to use its own standards for media files, corruption and avoidance of JAVA, etc.) to prove it explicitly wants only its own solutions forced on the public, and that with its current mass and momentum, can effectively make it happen?

Erik Fjerstad
2043 Edgeview Drive
Hudson, Ohio 44236